

NOTICE OF PROGRAM CHANGES TO THE GUAM COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

DATE: December 1, 2022

NOTICE: The Guam Coastal Management Program has submitted a program change request to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management (OCM) under 15 CFR § 923.84 (federal regulations implementing the national Coastal Zone Management Act). The request seeks OCM's approval to incorporate changes to the Guam Coastal Management Program's Program Authorities.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: This is an opportunity to submit comments on this program change. This notice has been sent to affected and interested parties including local governments, state agencies, and regional offices of relevant federal agencies as required by 15 CFR §923.84. The Coastal Zone Management Act regulations require states with Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMP) to submit to OCM changes that affect federal approval of a state's CZMP. States use their enforceable policies for conducting federal consistency reviews of proposed projects. Generally, Federal Consistency requires that federal activities such as issuing federal permits or undertaking federal development projects that have reasonably foreseeable effects to a state's coastal uses or resources within and outside of the coastal zone, must be consistent with the enforceable policies of the state's CZMP. The federal agency or applicant must demonstrate how the project or activity is consistent with the CZMP's enforceable policies, and the state can concur with or object to their conclusions. OCM must review and approve changes to a state's CZMP before those changes can be incorporated into the CZMP and/or used for Federal Consistency purposes.

Guam's CZMP: The Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans manages and administers Guam's CZMP, which defines the coastal zone as the entire island of Guam with a seaward outer limit of three nautical miles. GCMP is a networked agency with a number of agencies and instrumentalities of the Government of Guam principally responsible for certain coastal management activities. GCMP's Program Authorities are outlined in the Guam Coastal Management Program and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Volume 1, pg. 114-116), and additional authorities as were adopted by Guam's 1990 Routine Program Implementation and Guam's 2013 Routine Program Change.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES: GCMP is updating its Program Authorities that it uses to review and make decisions on projects. The proposed changes to Program Authorities include authorities which are under the principal responsibility of the Bureau, the Department of Agriculture (DOAGR), the Department of Land Management (DLM), Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), and the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA). The proposed changes under the Bureau include the change in the name and authority of the Bureau (successor of the Central Planning Council/Bureau of Planning) under Guam Pub. Law 26-76 §§ 22 and 31(a) and statutory changes to Centralized Planning, 5 GCA Ch. 1 Art. 2. The proposed changes under DOAGR include statutory changes to Game and Fish, 5 GCA Ch. 63 Art. 1; Forestry, 5 GCA Ch. 63 Art. 3; and Live Coral and Fishing Nets, 5 GCA Ch. 63 Art 6; and the addition of the Guam Forestry Legacy Act of 2012, 5 GCA Ch. 63 Art. 5. The proposed change under DLM is the addition of the Application Review Commission, pursuant to Exec. Order 96-26. The proposed change under GEPA is the addition of the Stormwater Management Criteria of Guam, pursuant to Exec. Order 2012-02. The proposed change under GWA is addition of the Drought Measurement and Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan, pursuant to Exec. Order 24-161. In support of GCMP's request, GCMP has provided a brief overview description of the proposed program change, a brief summary of the changes of each authority or policy and how the management program as changed is different from the previously approved management program, and a program change table.

TO READ MORE & SUBMIT COMMENTS: All of the documents related to these proposed changes to the Guam Coastal Management Program are available on the Bureau of Statistics and Plan's website at: <https://bsp.guam.gov/gcmp-program-change-gu-2022-1/>

Any comments on this program change to Guam's approved Coastal Management Program should be submitted directly to the NOAA Office of Coastal Management on NOAA's Program Change website under File Number GU-2022-1 at: <https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home>

Comments on this program change request must be submitted within 21 days of this notice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information please contact: Julian Janssen at (671) 475-9664; julian.janssen@bsp.guam.gov.